

Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (J-JAC)

BRIEFING REPORT

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THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (J-JAC)

As part of the Governor's reform initiative for more efficient and effective government, the Governor has requested that DSHS convene a new repositioned State Advisory Group (SAG). The new State Advisory Group will be named the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (J-JAC). The J-JAC will assume a pro-active role, providing collaborative leadership and direction, recommending innovative juvenile justice reforms and best practices for implementation. The composition of the J-JAC will be in compliance with federal requirements and the Committee will retain the federally mandated responsibilities of a State Advisory Group, implementing the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and administering related federal and state funding.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Building upon the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee's (JJAC) legacy dating back to 1982, Washington State is embarking on a new approach to advance juvenile justice system reform.

A growing body of adolescent development and child maltreatment research supports the need for a continuum of evidence-based and promising programs, including delinquency prevention, intervention, mental health and substance abuse treatment and aftercare. Therefore, the J-JAC will make a strong commitment to the implementation of reforms embracing innovative evidence-based and promising programs and multi-system collaboration and coordination among juvenile justice stakeholders.

Through the strength of shared responsibility and leadership, the J-JAC will partner key decision-makers from state, local and tribal governments and non-profit organizations to:

- Support its members in influencing the implementation of innovative reforms and best practices within their communities and organizations;
- Support and enhance multi-system collaboration and coordination among juvenile justice, child welfare, education, mental health and related systems in which Washington's children, youth and families are involved;
- Ensure that across Washington State, evidence-based and promising practices are replicated and administered in a culturally competent manner that adheres to program fidelity;
- Recommend and influence the adoption and implementation of system reforms and best practices to improve Washington's compliance with the core requirements of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP);
- Support the use of developmentally appropriate services for youth at risk of system involvement to help prevent youth crime;
- Support the use of developmentally appropriate services and sanctions for system-involved youth to help prevent subsequent delinquent behavior and deeper penetration into the juvenile justice system;
- Support the implementation of a continuum of programs, including delinquency prevention, intervention, mental health and substance abuse treatment and aftercare to address the needs of youth at-risk of system involvement and system-involved youth; and
- Develop recommendations for innovative juvenile justice reform, best practices, quality improvement, and accountability and strategies for their implementation in the systems and communities from which the members come.

WHAT WILL THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S MEMBERSHIP LOOK LIKE?

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee will be comprised of leaders from the juvenile justice system who have extensive experience and knowledge in juvenile justice and are able to affect or influence system reform. The membership will also include youth representation, to ensure the youth voice is included in the reform effort. All members will be appointed by the Governor. Through collaborative leadership and direction, the Committee will be charged to provide a strong, pro-active role, recommending innovative juvenile justice reforms and best practices for implementation.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee will be convened by the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services, and as provided by federal regulation, chaired by a gubernatorial appointee. The Committee will be staffed by DSHS Office of Juvenile Justice. As required by 42 U.S.C. 5633 [sec. 223.], its membership shall at a minimum include:

- one locally elected official representing general purpose local government;
- representatives of law enforcement and juvenile justice agencies including juvenile and family court judges, prosecutors, counsel for children and youth, and probation workers;
- representatives of public agencies concerned with delinquency prevention or treatment, social services, mental health, education and youth services;
- representatives of private nonprofit organizations, volunteers who work with delinquents or potential delinquents; youth workers involved with programs that are alternatives to incarceration;
- persons with special experience and competence in addressing problems related to school violence and alternatives to suspension and expulsion;
- persons with special experience and competence in addressing learning disabilities; and child abuse and neglect, and youth violence;
- one-fifth of its members shall be under the age of 24, a "majority" of the State Advisory Group members shall not be full-time employees of the Federal, State, or local government, and at least 3 members must have been or are currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.

WHEN WILL THE NEW STATE ADVISORY GROUP BE CONVENED?

The Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (GJJAC) will sunset upon the formation of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee which is expected to occur by June 30, 2010. The J-JAC will be appointed beginning in July of 2010 and convene their first meeting in October 2010. The establishment of the J-JAC will be by Executive Order.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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